



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

Yoshihiko Shioda )

Serial No.: 09/444,120 )

Filed: November 19, 1999 )

For: GOLF PRACTICE AND EXERCISE DEVICE )

Examiner: Raeann Gorden

Art Unit: 3711

Charlotte, North Carolina February 20, 2002

BOX RESPONSE - NO FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

This response supplements the Amendment filed on February 8, 2002.

In considering further the maximum size of a golf ball, which previously was related to the size of a golf hole, which is specified to be 4-1/2 inches in diameter, the maximum size of a golf ball is further limited by the fact that under certain conditions the flagstick remains in the hole, with the ball being allowed to fall into the hole while the flagstick is in place. For example, when chipping from off the green and when striking from the tee that results in a hole-in-one, the flagstick remains in the hole with the space between the flagstick and the perimeter of the hole being greater than the diameter of a ball. Otherwise, there could be no hole-in-one and a golfer could not chip into the hole.

As a golf hole is 4-1/2 inches in diameter and the centered flagstick is in the range of 1/2 inch in diameter, the space between the flagstick and the perimeter of the hole is no more than approximately 2 inches. As a result, the maximum size of a golf ball must be less than 2 inches in diameter. Thus, there is no teaching in the prior art of a golf ball being at least the size of a softball as claimed in the claims of the present application. Rather, the teaching is that a golf

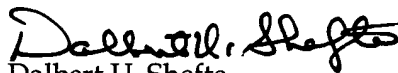
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ball must not be even half the size of the softball, which can not be a teaching rendering obvious the subject matter of the claims of the present application.

Therefore, it is submitted that the subject matter of the claims as presently amended is unobvious, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Dalbert U. Shefte

U.S. Reg. No. 18,174

Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman, L.L.P.

4200 Bank of America Corporate Center

100 North Tryon Street

Charlotte, NC 28202-4006

(704) 331-5790

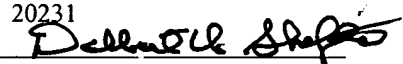
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Attorney for Applicant